

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01106 220610Z

17 16

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 NSC-10 NSCE-00 SAJ-01

CPR-02 SCA-01 L-03 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 759

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PEKING SECTION TWO OF TWO 1106

13. MR. HOLDRIDGE SAID THAT HE HAD NOTED THAT T'IENT P'ING HAD SAID WITH REGARD TO THE USG'S RESPONSE TO THE QUESTION CONCERNING "CONSULAR RELATIONS" AND WITH RESPECT TO T'IENT P'ING'S REMARKS CONCERNING THE "INAPPROPRIATENESS" OF THE USE OF THE WORD "CONSULAR OFFICER."

14. MR. HOLDRIDGE SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY BELIEVED THAT THESE PROBLEMS COULD BE RESOLVED WITHOUT DIFFICULTY BUT THAT THIS WILL REQUIRE CONFIRMATION FROM THE US AUTHORITIES IN WASHINGTON.

15. CONCERNING THE LAST POINT THAT T'IENT P'ING HAD RAISED, MR. HOLDRIDGE SAID THAT USLO WAS NOT YET PREPARED TO REPLY BUT THAT IT WOULD RESPOND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

16. T'IENT P'ING THEN SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO STATE SOME ADDITIONAL POINTS. FIRST, AFTER SEVERAL DISCUSSIONS, HE SAID, IT CAN BE SAID THAT PROCEDURES FOR HAVING THE LIAISON OFFICE DESIGNATE AN OFFICER TO HANDLE CONSULAR AFFAIRS CONCURRENTLY WITH HIS OTHER DUTIES HAS BEEN AGREED UPON BY BOTH SIDES. SECONDLY, FROM NOW ON "WE CAN PROCEED TO HANDLE CONSULAR AFFAIRS AS AGREED."

17. MR. HOLDRIDGE INTERJECTED THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO REPORT TODAY'S DISCUSSIONS TO WASHINGTON AND RECEIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 PEKING 01106 220610Z

APPROVAL. HE SAID THAT WE WILL SEEK THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE

REPLY.

18. TIEN P'ING SAID THAT "FOR THE TIME BEING THEN, WE WILL MAINTAIN OUR PRESENT PROCEDURES" AND THAT WE WOULD OFFICIALLY CARRY OUT THE FUNCTIONS ON APPROVAL OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT. MR. HOLDRIDGE AGREED, I.E. THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE IN SAME MANNER AS AT PRESENT, THAT THIS WOULD BE THE BEST WAY TO PROCEED.

19. TIEN P'ING THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT WITH REGARD TO THE DRAFT NOTE, THE CHINESE WOULD ALSO BE PRESENTING A NOTE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WHICH HE HAD READ TO US IN THE FIRST PART OF THE MEETING. AS TO THE CONTENT OF THE DRAFT MEMORANDUM OUTLINING THE US VIEWS ON THE SCOPE OF CONSULAR ACTIVITIES WHICH USLO HAD PRESENTED ON AUGUST 27, THE CHINESE HAD NO OPINION.

20. TIEN P'ING REFERRED AGAIN TO THE STATEMENT AT THE AUGUST 27 MEETING AS TO HOW THE DEPARTMENT WOULD REPLY TO AN INQUIRY FROM THE COURT: WHETHER OR NOT THE US HAD CONSULAR RELATIONS WITH THE PRC. TIEN P'ING REPEATED THAT THE PRCLC WILL DESIGNATE A DIPLOMATIC OFFICER TO HANDLE CONSULAR AFFAIRS CONCURRENTLY WITH HIS OTHER DUTIES. MR. HOLDRIDGE RESPONDED THAT THIS WAS WHAT WE PROPOSED TO DO. MR. HOLDRIDGE ALSO REPEATED THAT THE PROBLEM WOULD ONLY ARISE IF WE WERE QUESTIONED SINCE THE USG DID NOT INTEND UNILATERALLY TO INITIATE ANY ANNOUNCEMENT.

21. TIEN P'ING SAID THAT HE WAS REFERRING TO THE PROPOSED ANSWER (THAT THE US HAD "CONSULAR RELATIONS") AND THAT THIS IS NOT IN CONFORMITY OF THE ACTUAL STATE OF SINO-US RELATIONS SINCE WE NOW HAVE ONLY LIAISON OFFICES. THUS, THE PRCLC NOTE WILL ONLY STATE THE PRC "DESIGNATES" AN OFFICER TO HANDLE CONSULAR FUNCTIONS. TIEN P'ING THEN REPEATED THAT THERE IS NO PRECEDENT FOR THIS AMONG THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY IN PEKING AND THAT THE STATEMENT THAT WOULD BE MADE IN REPLY TO A QUESTION IN A US COURT CONCERNING "CONSULAR RELATIONS" IS INAPPROPRIATE.

22. MR. HOLDRIDGE SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THAT WE COULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PEKING 01106 220610Z

SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS ON BOTH SIDES.

23. TIEN P'ING SAID THAT IN REGARD TO THE SCOPE OF DUTIES TO BE HANDLED, USLO HAD SET THEM FORTH IN A DRAFT MEMO AND THE CHINESE HAVE STATED THEM IN THIS CONVERSATION. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE NOT MUCH DIFFERENCE, "THAT IS TO SAY OUR UNDERSTANDINGS ARE MORE OR LESS THE SAME ON THIS MATTER."

24. TIEN P'ING THEN WENT ON TO RECALL THAT MR. HOLDRIDGE HAD MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF DESIGNATING AN ADDITIONAL OFFICER TO ASSUME THE CONSULAR FUNCTIONS IN THE ABSENCE OF THE DESIGNATED OFFICER. TIEN P'ING NOTED HE HAD ALSO PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED THIS. THE CHINESE WILL ALSO REQUIRE SOMEONE TO ACT IN THE PLACE OF THE PERSON THEY DESIGNATE FROM TIME TO TIME. IT WILL BE SUFFICIENT, HE SAID, TO NOTIFY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON A SHORT NOTICE. TIEN P'ING CLOSED AGAIN BY NOTING THAT THE QUESTION OF POUCHES WOULD BE DISCUSSED LATER. MR. HOLDRIDGE SAID THAT HE HOPED WE WOULD HAVE AN EARLY REPLY ON THE COURIER AND POUCH MATTERS FOR THE CHINESE. HE WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT THE WORD "CONSULAR OFFICER" WHICH APPEARED ON THE USLO VISA STAMP WAS BECAUSE THESE STAMPS ARE STANDARD WORLD WIDE AND THAT THE USLO HAD NOT DELIBERATELY USED THE PHRASE.

25. TIEN P'ING THEN REFERRED BACK TO THE QUESTION WHICH MIGHT BE RAISED IN THE US COURT AND REPEATED THAT THE WAY IN WHICH THE DEPARTMENT REPLIED TO THE QUESTION IS AN "INTERNAL MATTER." IN THE PRESENT STATE OF RELATIONS, HE SAID, "CONSULAR RELATIONS ARE NON-EXISTENT." THIS IS WHY THE CHINSE FELT THEY MUST RAISE THE MATTER OF THE USE OF THE TERM "CONSULAR OFFICER" ON THE USLO VISAS.

26. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT THERE WERE NO FURTHER POINTS TO BE RAISED AT THIS TIME. TIEN P'ING INTRODUCED MR. LIU AND MR. LING, SAYING THAT THEY COULD NOW BE APPROACHED DIRECTLY ON MATTERS FALLING WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE JURISDICTIONS. THE MEETING THEN ENDED.
END OF TEXT.'

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PAGE 04 PEKING 01106 220610Z

27. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS SEPTTEL.
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